MOTION FOR NOMINATION TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSES ON THE LOKPAL BILL, 1985

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Minister, please move the motion.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Madam, I move:

> "That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint two members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Dipen Ghosh and P. Shiv Shanker from the membership of the Rajya Sabha and resolves that Sarvashri Dipen Ghosh and P. Shiv Shanker be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

REFERENCE TO THE LATHI-CHARGE ON PEACEFUL WOMEN DEMONSTRATORS

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, with your kind approval I put on record my strongest condemnation and disapproval of the brutal lathi charge that the Police made on women demonstrators yesterday when they were practising againsst the unprecedented rise in prices in the city of Delhi. The chivalrous police which is totally incapable even to curb lawlessness in the city of Delhi has become so courageous as to beat with lathis our peaceful women demonstrators under the very nose of the Prime Minister. I think this is a very natural expression against the unprecedented price rise. If the Government take recourse to brutal repression against the normal protest demonstrations of the people, I warn the Government that the situation will become very grim not only in the city of Delhi but all over the country. I want a statement from the House Minister who is present in the House.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Madam, Deputy Chairman, I associate myself with the views expressed by my colleague, Shri Das Gupta. Yesterday, the peaceful demonstration of women against the unprecedented rise in prices was brutally lathi-charged by the police in Delhi. I condemn it in the strongest possible words and demand a statement from the Home Minister. (*Interrupions*).

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी (मध्य प्रदेश): हम भी इससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करते हैं। हम इसकी निन्दा करते हैं।

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Yesterday's demonstration was against price rise. After a long time, women and women organisations in Delhi tried to demonstrate and invite the attention of the Government to this important question. Both Houses of Parliament have debated this issue at length, with all concern about it. It was a peaceful demonstration, as I know. There was no provocation at all by the demonstrators. In spite of that, the police have lathi-charged them, beaten them. This is a serious matter, particularly against ladies. Their only purpose was to demonsrtate against rising prices of various essential commodities. Therefore, I would like the Government to assure us that such things would not be repeated. Secondly, I would ask the Government to formulate guidelines for the police when dealing with such situations in future.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदया, दिल्ली की पुलिस लाठी चलाने में माहिर हो गई है। कल उन्होंने दिल्ली की

महिलाओं को अपनी लाठी का निशाना बनाया, उससे पहले जो ग्रामीण जिनमें किसान बड़ी संख्या में थे, अपनी जमीन के अधिग्रहण के खिलाफ प्रदर्शन कर रहे थे, उन पर लाठी चलाई गई और वहां गोली भी चली, इसके भी आरोप है। आखिर दिल्ली केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश है, क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार दिल्ली को पुलिस पर नियंत्रण नहीं रख सकती है? वह महिलाओं के साथ अभद्र व्यवहार करने के लिए तुली हुई है तो देश के अंदर भागों में क्या होगा, इसका अन्दाजा आप स्वयं लगा सकती हैं। इसलिए क्या आप मंत्री महोदय से कहेंगी कि वे इस पर प्रकाश डालें और खेद प्रकट करें?

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार): महोदया, औरतों पर लाठी चार्ज से पता चलता है कि सरकार किसी आतंक से ग्रसित हो गई है। और तो और, वह महिलाओं पर लाठी चार्ज करती है किसानों पर लाठी चार्ज करती है। सभी जानती हैं कि महंगाई की सबसे बड़ी मार महिलाओं के ऊपर पड़ती है। वे स्वयं इसकी लड़ाई को झेलती हैं। इसलिए मैं समझता हूं कि महिलाओं पर लाठी चार्ज करना इस समय सरकार की निशानी है। महिलाओं पर लाठी चलाना उचित नहीं है। जब महिलाएं महंगाई को रोकने की बात कह रही थीं, उन पर लाठी चलाना उचित नहीं है। इसलिए मैं इसकी भर्त्सना करता हूं।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: (West Bengal): The Home Minister is present. So many Members have expressed their concern. Let him speak about it. He is present here. He can at least assure us that he would come up with a statement later... (*Interruptions*): He must assure us. Can he take the House for a ride like this?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam,...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have allowed you once; you cannot raise it again. In the absence of facts **before the Minister, we cannot ask him** abruptly to make any statement.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He can assure the House...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have not given previous notice about it but because it was an urgent matter, I allowed you to raise it. But that does not mean that without giving previous notice, you can ask the Minister to make a statement.

Now I call **Mr. Kalpnath Rai** for the calling attention.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Just listen, Madam, I abide by your instructions. But the question is... (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, please sit down.

श्रीमती विजया राजे सिंधिया (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदया, मैं यह देख रही हूं कि हमारी बहिनों हमारी सरकार की पुलिस की बर्बरता बर्दाश्त की हद को पार कर चुकी है। महिलाओं के ऊपर इस तरह की बर्बरता हो, यह उचित नहीं है। कल की बात ही नहीं, और भी प्रोसेशन ऐसे आ चुके हैं जब इस तरह का बर्बरतापूर्ण व्यवहार किया गया है। कुछ समय पूर्व की बात है, पुलिस-वालों ने महिलाओं के बाल पकड़ कर उनको मैनहैंडल किया है। क्या हम सिटिजन नहीं हैं। क्या हम में द्वितीय सिटिजन की कैटेगरी में पहुंच गये हैं। आज भारतीय नारी के साथ इस तरह का व्यवहार हो रहा है और सरकार बेंच में बैठी हुई है, कुछ भी नहीं कर रही है। हम किसके पास जायें, किसके सुनवाई के लिये जायें। हम सुनवाई के लिये गये थे, महिलायें सुनवाई के लिये गई थीं और उन पर यह हुआ। प्राइम रोड पर हुआ। अन्य ऐसे कितने ही प्रोसेशन हैं जब हम स्त्रियों को इस तरह से मैनहैंडल किया गया है। क्या उनकी कोई इज्जत नहीं है। आज इस सरकार के राज में स्त्रियों की कोई इज्जत है या नहीं, उनका स्वाभिमान है कि नहीं? क्या आप उनको नागरिक भी समझते हैं? नागरिक राइट्स, नागरिक अधिकार में हमारी रक्षा का भी अधिकार है। अगर हमारे अधिकारों की रक्षा नहीं होती तो हमें भारत को जगाना पड़ेगा और हम सरकार के खिलाफ एक अभियान चलायेंगे, हम इसको सहन नहीं करेंगे।

उपसभापति : मैंने आज देखा है जो तस्वीर आई है उसमें एक लेडी कांस्टेबल के बाल खींचे गये हैं, ऐसी तस्वीर आई है।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You need not come out with an apology for the police officer. The Home Minister is present here. He may not have the facts with him now. He can come back to the House in the afternoon and make a statement.

गृह मंत्री (श्री बूटा सिंह) : उपसभापति महोदया, आपने ठीक ही कहा था। आपने कहा था कि तथ्यों का पता करके हमें सदन को अवगत कराना चाहिए। अवश्य, मैं अभी तथ्यों का पता करके सदन के सामने आऊंगा। मगर जैसा कि माननीय सांसद महोदया ने अभी कहा कि मैंने हैंडलिंग हुआ सभी स्त्रियों के साथ तो यह पता चला है कि वहां पर वूमैन मिस है डलिंग हुआ है वूमैन पुलिस का। इसलिये जैसा श्री दीपेन बाबू पूछ रहे थे जो आज के पत्रों में छपा है उससे तो ऐसा प्रतीत होता है कि तीन दर्जन के करीब हमारी वूमैन कांस्टेबल और आफिसर जख्मी हुए हैं जबकि सारे प्रदर्शन में से केवल एक सत्याग्रही.. **(व्यवधान)**...

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): What have you been doing so far?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is the picture in the 'Times of India'. Police lathi-charging the demonstrators.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You want to put questions, but you do not want to listen to the hon. Minister.

श्री बूटा सिंह : फिर भी फैक्टस पता करके, मेरे सहयोगी श्री चिदम्बरम जो आये हैं। वे शायद इसी काम के लिये आये हैं। मैं उनसे भी कहूंगा। लेकिन एक चीज जो आपने दुनिया भर के आरोप लगा दिये बर्बरता के वह आप जानते हैं कि सामन्तों के समय में कैसी-कैसी बर्बरियत हुई है। लोगों को बन्द काल कोठरी में मारा जाता था, खाना तक नहीं दिया जाता था। उसको आज आप... **(व्यवधान)**... आज के पुलिस के मुकाबले में... **(व्यवधान)** पूरे परिवार के लोगों को कष्ट दिया जाता था, लोगों की जिंदगी भर बंदी बना दिया जाता था। लेकिन आज बाकायदा लोकतंत्र के ढांचे में प्रदर्शनकारियों को सूचित किया गया. **(व्यवधान)**...उपसभापति महोदय, हमारी बहनों का अगर किसी किस्म का भी कष्ट हुआ हो प्रदर्शन करते हुए, तो हमें उसका खेद है। मगर इस प्रकार से यह कहना कि सहकार योजना-बद्ध ढंग से महिलाओं के ऊपर बर्बरियत कर रहो है, यह मैं कहूंगा कि एक राजनैतिक क्रूरता है, खाली विरोधता के नीचे बरगलाने वाली राजनीति है और मैं इसको नहीं मानता हूं।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि वे तथ्यों का इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं और बिना तथ्य इकट्ठा किये बोल रहे हैं।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chidambaram wants to say something.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी श्री बूटा सिंह ने परस्पर विरोधी बातें कही हैं।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to share the information which I have received with the Members of the House. According to the information which I have received, yesterday, at about 11.00 hours, there was a *morcha* and a demonstration by about 700 women belonging to various women's organisations. A procession was taken out along Jai Singh Road. There was a police cordon. This was just before Patel Chowk. At that police cordon, police had deployed women police from the Delhi Police led by an officer of the CRPF, who is also a lady officer. Some lady CRPF were also deployed. After the morcha came up to the cordon, as we all know, some

people tried to break the cordon. There was a prohibitory order under section 144 of the Cr. P.C. Therefore, they were told that they cannot proceed beyond the cordon. Of course, being political demonstrators, they tried to break the cordon. According to the existing instructions, they were arrested and taken to Mandir Marg Police Station. This is where I think the controversy begins, but let me assure that I will certainly look into whatever you say.

While being arrested a number of participants fiercely resisted the arrest, which also I understand. I have done it and you have also done it.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: You have not done it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have done it and I suppose have' means 'have' and not 'have not'.

According to my information, one demonstrator received minor injuries and was discharged after first aid. According to my information, one lady inspector—I have the name here but do not wish to mention it--two sub-inspectors of Parliament Street Police Station and 14 other police personnel received minor injuries. Despite the violence, minor violence in that scuffle, my information is that the police personnel acted with great restraint. 248 demonstrators were arrested under section 180 of the IPC for violation of prohibitory orders. Later on they were let off by the court after admonition. 315 demonstrators were detained under the Delhi Police Act and they were released after a shortwhile.

I would like to assure the hon. Members that it was like any other demonstration where there was an attempt to break the cordon, there was an attempt to resist arrest and there were injuries to some police personnel and one demonstrator received injuries who was discharged after first aid.

I think we should allow the matter to rest here. If any other information is given here, I will try to look into that.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Was there no lathi charge?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Mr. Gurupadaswamy may please believe me that there was no lathi charge.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kalpnath Rai. (*Interruptions*)

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभापति महोदया.. (**व्यवधान**) :

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : महोदया, ... (**व्यवधान**)

उपसभापति : यह क्या डिसकशन है ? (**व्यवधान**)

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी : इसके बारे में ... (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, I was not making a statement, I was sharing the information. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is always our privilege to ask clarifications. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Kalpnath Rai. (*Interruptions*) I have not allowed. Don't record (*Interruptions*). You wanted information and he has given the information. The matter ends there.

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : उपसभापति महोदया, मैं कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान ... (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam Deputy Chairman, here the convention is that the Members can seek clarifications from Minister on any statement made by him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): He was not making a statement. He just replied to some of the points. Mr. Chidambaram was trying to help you in getting information. It was not a statement at all. He said it is information.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Then what is that? How it is recorded? Let me understand what is that.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen, Mr. Dipen Ghosh. I allowed you and now you are not allowing me to speak. Please sit down. No, this is not the correct procedure. Mr. Reddy, you please sit down. You see, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta and Mr. Gurupadaswamy came to me this morning and they wanted to raise this matter. Though it was not on the agenda, they said it was urgent, some lathi charge had taken place, they were women and therefore they said that this matter they should be allowed to raise. I also agreed, "all right, you can raise it for some time" and I allowed them to raise it. They have raised it. They wanted information from the Government and Government has given the information. Even now you want to go on with this. How can it be allowed? You want to change the whole procedure. No, Madam, I allowed you and you had your full say. Whatever you had to say, it was allowed. Now you are again going far beyond the procedure. It is upsetting the procedure of the House. You cannot go on like that. No, Madam, please sit down. It cannot go on record. It cannot go on. Please cooperate. I have cooperated with you; you please cooperate with me. This is going beyond the limit. Please sit down. This is not a debate. There cannot be questions and answers. I allowed you to say whatever you wanted to say. Now it cannot go on like this. Please sit down. Now Mr. Kalpnath Rai.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their agricultual produce and steps taken by Government in this regard

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश): आदरणीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपकी अनुमति से किसानों को उनकी कृषि उपज के लाभकारी मूल्य दिलाने की आवश्यकता और इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाये गये कदमों की ओर कृषि मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाता ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Madam, the Hon'ble Members have mentioned about "the need to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their agricultural produce and the steps taken by Government in this regard". As I have stated on earlier occasions in this House the agricultural price policy of the Government is primarily directed towards ensuring remunerative prices to the agricultural producers and safeguarding their interests. In every season, Government announces procurement/minimum support prices of important crops for this purpose keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments, the concerned Central Ministries and the Planning Commission. The Government, whenever required, undertakes price support operations through public and cooperative agencies.

The recommendations on procurement/minimum support prices are made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices keeping in view a number of factors, such as, the cost of production of crops, changes in input prices, inter-crop price variations, changes in the "terms of trade" between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, general economic conditions prevailing in the country, etc.